



# HURRICANE DORIAN

ONE YEAR LATER



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

ONE YEAR LATER



*Thank you*

In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas with devastating force. The Category 5 hurricane was the most powerful hurricane on record to strike the Bahamas and led to at least 70 deaths and widespread devastation. On Grand Bahama Island and the Abaco Islands, more than 6,000 people were evacuated from their homes, 1,900 were in shelters and more than 83% of homes were destroyed. On Great Abaco Island, many communities, including a community with a sizable number of migrants from Haiti, were completely leveled. The storm also hit other parts of the Caribbean and the southeastern coast of the United States with flooding and wind. But thanks to your support of Lutheran Disaster Response, survivors of this hurricane know they're not alone.

## THE RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response works in partnership with congregations, synods, Lutheran social ministry organizations and other partners in the United States and around the world. With their deep knowledge of local needs and how to address them, these partners help us work in ways that are relevant and effective for each community. Through these partnerships, we accompany survivors from the time a disaster strikes until communities are rebuilt.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Freeport, Grand Bahama, was not destroyed and served as a base to stage the Florida-Bahamas Synod relief and recovery effort. Thanks to your support of Lutheran Disaster Response, the synod supported a disaster response coordinator at Our Saviour during the relief phase to oversee distribution of food, water and other critical supplies, such as diapers, air mattresses and tarps to keep rain out of homes with damaged roofs. The disaster coordinator is also working with the community to assess damage and assist families in rebuilding and repairing homes over the next few years. So far, the Florida-Bahamas Synod has restored power to 14 homes and assisted in repairing roofs on four homes. Pastoral care has been and will continue to be provided by Our Saviour to survivors throughout Grand Bahama. In addition, the synod is leading the effort in establishing a long-term recovery group to assist with unmet needs.

The national trainers of Lutheran Disaster Response, as well as experts from Lutheran World Relief, have provided training for community leaders in Grand Bahama on essential skills related to disaster response. While COVID-19 has greatly hindered recovery efforts at this point, we are committed to supporting survivors as they rebuild their homes and lives over the long haul. Lutheran Disaster Response also plans to work with other international disaster-response partners in supporting future recovery work in the Bahamas.

In Carteret County, North Carolina, Lutheran Services Carolinas collaborated with Inspiritus to provide relief immediately after Dorian hit. Working with disaster coordinating staff of Lutheran Services Carolinas, volunteers and staff from Inspiritus helped volunteers remove water, mud and debris from homes and make minor roof repairs.

With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can provide survivors of this hurricane and others like it with immediate relief and can accompany them on the long road to recovery.



# Thank you

Because of the generosity of donors such as you, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to make long-term commitments to help communities recover from disasters. Based on the severity of the damages and the large number of impacted areas, LDR is committed to supporting recovery efforts that help survivors rebuild their lives.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THIS ONGOING RESPONSE AND OTHERS LIKE IT:

### ONLINE

[ELCA.org/disaster](http://ELCA.org/disaster)

### BY MAIL

Make a check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

### BY PHONE

Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time.



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